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LOOKE

Vp and ſee Wonders.

A miraculous Apparition in the Ayre, lately ſeene in *Barke-ſhire* at *Bawlkin Greene* neere *Hatford*. *April.* 9th. 1628.

Imprinted at [illegible]*don* for *Roger Michell*, 1628.

BRITISH
MUSEUM

To the Reader.

AS thou doeſt Reade, ſo practiſe to Vnderſtand, and make vſe of thy Labour: Let not this Knowledge vaniſh away like a Dreame, but keepe it as a Monument ingrauen in Braſſe or Marble. This is a ſtrange Chronicle, written by a ſtrong hand: The beſt Antiquary in the World hath ſet it downe, for God himſelfe puts his owne Name to it: A few leaues of his Filling, are an ample Volume: Euery ſmall Epitome Written by him, is a Booke in Folio. Here thou ſhalt finde no great number of Lines, but much more Matter comprehended in them, then the Words ſeeme to carry. This is but a Picture of a Battaile fought in the Aire: A naked Deſcription of a terrible Fight; fearefull no doubt to the Standers by, but it may be

Comfortable to thee, if heereby thou getst thy ſelfe Arm'd to Combate with thy ſinnes, for queſtionleſſe vppon ſome ſuch occaſions grew this Quarrell; which may eaſily be taken vp, if thou (and euery one of vs) ſubmit our ſelues, confeſſe wherein wee are faulty, and ſo plead for Attonement.

Nothing is here preſented to thine eyes, to fright thee, but to fill thee with Ioy, that this Storme fell ſo farre off, and not vppon thine owne Head: Yet beware, for the ſame Hand holds a Rod to ſtrike euery one that deſerues puniſhment. Pray to Heauen to free Thee from it; and ſo wiſhing thee the ſtrong heart of a true Chriſtian, to beare with Patience, what thy Selfe ſhalt feele, and to pitty others, I bid thee farewell.

BRITISH MUSEUM

Looke

Looke Vp,

And

See Wonders.

SO Benummed weeare in our Senses, that albeit God himselfe Holla in our Eares, wee by our wills are loath to heare him. His dreadfull Pursiuants of *Thunder*, and *Lightning* terrifie vs so long as they haue vs in their fingers, but beeing off,

wee dance and ſing in the midſt of our Follies. So blinde are wee in the vnderſtanding of Heauenly matters, that wee cannot ſee our way to Goodneſſe, but runne head-long into the Pathes of our owne euerlaſting vndoing. Dangers haue not the skill to fright vs; Death onely is the Man, that can doe good vpon vs: And yet, though Death knockes at our very Doores, nay; albeit wee ſee him ſit at our Bed-ſide, yet the hope of Life, playes her idle, vayne, and wanton Muſicke vnder our Windowes.

Into what a miſerable Sea of calamities does a man then throw himſelfe, when in this his earthly Nauigation, hee ſayles he cares not how, nor knowes where to finde a ſafe Landing-place.

Wee had neede therefore to make much of vnderſtanding, wiſe, and skilfull Pilots, for the beſt of vs all is an ignorant Marriner. Apt enough

we are, to run vpon Rockes and quick-ſands; but an excellent Sea-man is hee, that in all weathers can beare vp Sayle, and by the vertue of his good Compaſſe, is able to auoyde ſuch mortall Dangers.

The foure Elements haue beene Preachers to vs, yet wee get (or at leaſt, ſhew) little amendment by the Doctrin, they haue Read vnto vs. The *Earth*, (once fruitfull) hath of late yeares felt the curſe of *Barrenneſſe*: Her wombe hath beene the deuourer of many thouſands of her owne Children; ſhee has not playd the part of a Mother, but a Step-dame, for inſteed of ſtrong wines, ſhee hath bin drunke with bloud.

How hath the other Element of water beene troubled? What Monſters hath the Sea brought forth? The ſonnes of Murder, Rapine, Fury, and Pyracy. As for *Fire*, it hath denied of late to warme vs, but at vnreaſonable rates, and extreame hard conditions. But what talke

I of this earthy nouriſhment of *fire*? how haue the *Fires* of Heauen (ſome few yeares paſt) gone beyond their bounds, and appeared in the ſhapes of Comets, and Blazing Starres? The *Aire* hath bin infected, and millions haue dropd into Graues, by ſucking in her mortall poyſon. The *Aire* is the ſhop of Thunder and Lightning: In that, hath of late bin held a Muſter of terrible enemies, and threatners of Vengeance, which the great Generall of the Field, who Conducts and Commands all ſuch Armies, (*God Almighty, I meane*) auert from our Kingdome, and ſhoote the arrowes of his indignation ſome other way, vpon the boſomes of thoſe that would confound his Goſpell.

Now, albeit that theſe foure great quarter-maſters of the World (*the foure Elements*) haue in former times, and in this of our owne, bin in ciuill Warres one againſt another, and bent their Forces at the Heart of this Kingdome;

yet

yet how happy are we, to eate our bread in Peace, and to drinke our wholesome and sweete Waters? No *Nation* beneath the *Sunne* hath more cause to sing Prayses to *God*, and send vp Thankes to Heauen then ours.

The Drum beates here, but the Battailes are abroad: The Barbed Horse tramples not downe our Corne-fieldes: The earth is not manurde with mans Bloud (as it was in the Warres of the Barons; and those of the two Royall contending Families, of *Yorke* and *Lancaster*.) Here we presse Souldiers; but other Countries beare the burthen of their Armies. Heere they kindle their Match, but the fire is not giuen, till they come into Forraigne Kingdomes.

This Security yet must not bee suffered to rocke vs fast asleepe; and so with *Sampson*, to haue our strength cut from vs, by the Strumpet of our carelesnes: For albeit, our Gates haue no Canons

planted agaynſt them: Nor no ſcaling-ladders ſet to the Walls of our Cities; yet there are Whole Ambuſhes of enemies lurking in our priuate Boſomes; And thoſe are our ſinnes, which daily lay traynes of powder, to blow vs vp, and confound vs.

For theſe, there is an Eye open, which day and night doth ouer-looke our actions; and if milde and gentle chidings cannot call vs home, let vs thanke our ſelues, and the ſtubbornneſſe of our hearts, if wee groane vnder the ſtripes of correction.

Let vs turne to *God*, and *God* will not turne his Face from vs: Say thy ſinnes were as blacke as Hell; yet *Repentance* ſhall make them like the Winges of a Doue, couer'd (*as the Kingly Prophet ſings*) with ſiluer, the Wings bearing the colour of yellow Gold. *Repentance* is able to make the ſoule as white as the ſnow in *Zalmon*; and *Gods* mercy like the mountaine of *Baſhan*.

Pſalme 67.

Repentanc

Repentance is a golden Key, which opens Heauen, and lookes vp to *Gods* anger. *Repentance* wins him to ſmile vpon vs, and to ſay thus; If thou ſtill art climing vp this Hill of *Repentance*; Bleſſed ſhalt thou be in the City; and Bleſſed in the Field: Bleſſed ſhall be the fruite of thy Body; and the Fruite of thy ground, and the fruite of thy Cattle: The increaſe of thy Kine; and the Flockes of thy Sheepe: Bleſſed ſhall be thy Basket, and thy Dough: Bleſſed ſhalt thou bee when thou commeſt in; and bleſſed alſo when thou goeſt out.

Thy Land-Souldiers (*O England*) ſhall not ſtand in feare of any *Italian Spinolaes*; nor thy Nauy Royall of any *Spaniſh Armadoes*: For, thine enemies that riſe againſt thee, ſhall fall before thy face; they ſhall come out againſt thee one way, and flye before thee ſeauen wayes.

His word that ſpeakes this, may be taken better than any Kings in the

World; and therefore hold out both thy hands, vnder this Tree of Blessings, and catch the golden Apples, when so freely they are shaken downe into thy lappe But if thou trample these gifts vnder thy feete, and spurnest at Gods Fauours bestowed vppon thee; New quiuers of punishments will then be opened, and other strange fearefull arrowes be shot at thy bosome. Heauen shalbe turned to Brasse; earth to Iron; dust and ashes be giuen for Raine; our Wiues shall haue others lye with them; our great houses shall haue others dwell in them; our Vineyards to bee planted, yet we shall neuer taste them: Our sheep to bee giuen to our enemies; and our sonnes and daughters to be led into Captiuity.

Deut. 20.

If therfore with *Naaman*, thou wouldst be cleansed from thy Leaprosie of sinne, thou must obey *Elisha*, and wash thy selfe seauen times in *Iordan*: Weepe seauen times a day; nay seauen times an houre,

2 *King.* 5. 41

houre, for offending thy mercifull Father: Whosoeuer with *Ahazia*, the King of *Samaria* falleth sicke, and sendeth for recouery to *Baal-zebub* (the God of *Ekron*) and not to the true God indeede, he shall not come from his bed, but die the Death.

For, wee sinke to the bottome of the waters, as the Carpenters axe did (*in the second of the Kings,*) but, though neuer so iron-hearted, the voyce of an *Elisha* (the feruency of Prayer, and praysing God) can fetch vs from the bottome of Hell, and by contrition make vs swim on the top of the waters of life.

Stand therefore at the Gates of Gods mercy still; begge still; knocke still; and knocke hard: For *Hannah*, was barren, yet being an importunate suiter, her petition was heard, and signed: She was fruitfull, and had three Sonnes and Daughters: So, when we are barren in *Repentance*, in Thanksgiuing in Charity, in Patience, in Goodnesse, let vs vnfeig-

nedly pray to Heauen, we ſhalbe fruitfull, and theſe fiue ſhalbee our Sonnes and Daughters. By this meanes our
Ruth. 1. 20. *Mara* ſhall change her name to *Naomi*, and our bitterneſſe be turned into ſweetneſſe.

Haue we not great cauſe then to magnifie him, who Crowneth the yeare
Pſal. 65. with plenty, and whoſe ſteppes drop
Pſal. 104. fatneſſe: Haue we not reaſon to trembleat his Threatnings, who couereth himſelfe with Light, as with a Garment, and ſpreadeth the Heauens like a Curtaine? who layeth the beames of his Chambers in the Waters, and maketh the Clouds his Chariot, and walketh vppon the wings of the winde? This Almighty Thunderer, hath Spirits attending vpon him, for his Meſſengers are flaming fire to runne of his errands: If he but lookes vppon the earth in anger, it trembles: If hee but touch the Mountaynes, they ſmoake, and are conſumed: So that if wee fall not on our knees,

knees, to doe him reuerence. If we open not our lips, to glorifie his Name: If we fall not flat on the Earth, at the ſound of his dreadfull voyce; woe be to vs, we are loſt for euer, vndone for euer: His bleſſings (if we receiue them not with the right hand) are to vs, as meſſes of meate ſet vpon a Graue. What then are his chaſtizements? O! they are terrible and not to be indurde. Many windowes hath he ſet open in Heauen, to ſhewe what Artillery hee has lying there, and many of our Kings haue trembled, when they were ſhewne vnto them. What blazing Starres (euen at Noone-dayes,) in thoſe times, hung houering in the Aire? How many frightfull Eccliplſes both of Sun and Moone? What apparitions of battailes? How many times haue Armies fought againſt Armies, in the diſturbed vpper Regions?

It is not for man to diſpute with God, why he has done this ſo often, nor raſhly to pronounce judgement vppon any

thing,

thing, it pleaſeth God to accompliſh now; but, with feare and trembling caſting our eyes vp to Heauen, let vs now behold him, bending his Fiſt onely, as lately he did to the terrour and affrightment of all the Inhabitants, dwelling within a Towne in the County of *Barkſhire.*

Locke vp therefore now; and Jee a New Wonder.

THE name of the Towne is *Hatford* (in *Barkeſhire*) ſome eight miles from *Oxford.* Ouer this Towne, vpon *Wenſday* being the ninth of this inſtant Moneth of *April* 1628. about fiue of the clocke in the afternoone. This miraculous, prodigious, and fearefull handy-worke of God was preſented, to the aſtoniſhable amaze-

ment

ment of all the beholders, Men, Women, and children, being many in number.

The weather was warme, and without any great shewe of distemperature, only the skye waxed by degrees a little gloomy, yet not so darkned but that the Sunne still and anon, by the power of the brightnesse, brake through the thicke clouds, and made them giue way to the Maiesty of his beames.

A gentle gale of wind then blowing from betweene the *West* and *North-west*; in an instant was heard, first a hideous rumbling in the *Ayre*, and presently after followed a strange and fearefull peale of Thunder, running vp and downe these parts of the *Countrey*, but it strake with the loudest violence, and more furious tearing of the *Ayre*, about a place called *The white Horse hill*, than in any other. The whole order of this *thunder*, carried a kind of Maiesticall state with it, for it maintayned (*to the affrighted Beholders seeming*)

the fashion of a fought Battaile.

It begannethus: First, for an on-set, went on one great *Cannon* as it were of *thunder* alone, like a warning peece to the rest, that were to follow. Then a little while after, was heard a second; and so by degrees a third, vntill the number of 20. were discharged (or there abouts) in very good order, though in very great terror.

In some little distance of time after this, was audibly heard the sound of a Drum beating a Retreate. Amongst all these angry peales, shot off from Heauen; this begat a wonderful admiration, that at the end of the report of euery cracke, or *Cannon-thundering*, a hizzing Noyse made way through the *Ayre*, not vnlike the flying of *Bullets* from the mouthes of great Ordnance: And by the iudgement of all the terror-stricken witnesses, they were *Thunderbolts*. For one of them was seene by many people, to fall at a place called

Bawlkin

Bawlkin Greene, beeing a mile and a halfe from *Hatford*: Which *Thunder-bolt* was by one Mistris *Greene*, caused to be digged out of the ground, she being an eye-witnesse amongst many other, of the manner of the falling.

The forme of the *Stone* is three-square, and picked in the end: In colour outwardly blackish, some-what like Iron: Crusted ouer with that blacknesse about the thicknesse of a shilling: Within, it is soft, of a gray colour, mixed with some kind of minerall, shining like small peeces of glasse.

This *Stone* brake in the fal: The whole peece is in weight nineteene pound and a halfe: The greater peece that fell off, weigheth fiue pound, which with other small peeces being put together, make foure and twenty pound and better.

At the hearing of this horrid *Thunder*, all men (especially about *Sheffington*) were so terrified, that they fell on their knees, and not onely thought, but

ſayd, that verily *the day of Judgement was come*. Neyther did theſe feares take hold only of the people, but euen Beaſts had the ſelfe-ſame feeling and apprehenſion of danger, running vp and downe, and bellowing, as if they had bin mad.

It is in the Countrey credibly reported, that ſome other *Thunder-ſtones* haue bin found in other places: But for certainty, there was one taken vp at *Letcombe*, and is now in the cuſtody of the *Shriefe*.

Many do conſtantly affirme, that the ſhape of a *Man, beating of a Drum*, was viſibly ſeene in the *Ayre*, but this wee leaue to prooue.

Others report that he, who digged vp the *Stone in Bawlkin Greene*, was at that inſtant ſtricken lame, but (*God bee thanked*) there is no ſuch matter.

Report in ſuch diſtractions as theſe, hath a thouſand eyes, and ſees more than it can vnderſtand; and as many tongues, which being once ſet a going,

they

they ſpeake any thing. So now a number of people report there were three *Sunnes* ſeene in the *Element*; but on the contrary ſide, they are oppoſers againſt them, that will affirme they beheld no ſuch matter, and that it was not ſo. Admit it were, how oftentimes haue three *Sunnes*, foure; nay fiue, and ſometimes more appeared in the *Ayre*, both in *England*, and other Countries round about vs? They who out of their Aſtronomicall iudgements write of ſuch apparitions, alleadging, and prooving by ſtrong arguments, that ſuch diſturbances in the Cæleſtiall bodies of the *Sunne*, *Moone*, and *Starres*, do more often from Naturall cauſes, than Supernaturall.

Howſoeuer, it is not fit that any man, ſhould take vppon him, to write too broad and buſie Comments on any ſuch Textes as theſe. Let vs not be ſo daring as to pry into the cloſet of *Gods determinations*. His *workes are full of Wonders, and not to be examined*: Let vs not be ſo fooliſh, as turne *Almanacke-makers*,

and to *Prognosticate*, *Propheſie*, *Fore-doome*, or *Fore-tell*, what ſhall happen, faire weather or foule, to our owne *Kingdome*, or any other; ſcarcity, or plenty; Warre, or Peace, for ſuch giddy-brayn'd Medlers, ſhoote their arrowes beyond the *Moone*.

The *Heauenly deſignes* are of a higher Nature, than to hold any correſpondence, commixture, or coniunction with the phantaſticall compoſitions of *Humane* frailty. Gods Bookes are not ſo eaſily opened: *Mans* eyes are too weake-ſighted, too dull-poynted to looke into his *Volnminous*, and *Miſterious Wonders*. The *Learning* of all the *Vniuerſities* in the World, is meere *ignorance*, to the *Almightyes vnderſtanding*.

Lay by therfore thy *Jacobs* ſtaffe, thou that art too *ſcrutinous*, to looke into the *Thunderers* treaſury; forbeare to take the height of theſe falſe imaginary *Sunnes*; and fright not thy *Countrey* with thy ouer-daring, fooliſh, and vaine glorious *predictions*. I ſpeake not this to *Arme* a-

ny

ny *Man* with *ſecurity*, *negligence*, or *miſbeliefe*; or to make him thinke, that *God* when he ſhewes vs ſuch *ſignes*, ſuch *rods* from Heauen, (doing ſo but ſeldome,) does it to no purpoſe; But let not vs be too inquiſitiue what that purpoſe is: the wranglings of Schooles, is not ſo vnpleaſing, to ignorant ſtanders by, as our *contentions* and *queres* about this buſineſſe, ſhould be to God.

Enough it ſhalbe for vs *to ſee, and feare; to heare*, and *not meddle*; to *apprehend* what our *weakneſſe* can, and to admire the *depth* which we cannot *read*.

The *Maſter* of the *houſhold* being *angry*, it is the *duty* of vs his *ſeruants*, to doe our beſt to pleaſe him, keepe him *quiet*, and not to prouoke him to a higher indignation, leaſt in his iuſt *fury*, which euery day (euery houre,) we are apt to run in. to, he vtterly *confounds* vs, and bring vs to nothing. Which, the *Almighty* for his owne *mercies* ſake, *forbid forget*, and *forgiue our ſinnes*. Amen.

FINIS.